

Claremont Chatter

YOU CAN IF YOU THINK YOU CAN

Good Evening All.

Well, we are through to the semi-final of the Amateur Cup for the second year running but what a heavy price we have had to pay for this victory. We would much rather have gone out of this cup than have suffered the tragic leg injury to Jimmy Quail and the only consolation we derived from the game was the brilliant manner in which the boys responded to Jimmy's message as he left for the hospital, "tell the boys

to hang on to their lead." No concern for the terrible agony he was going through at that moment, his only thought was that the boys should triumph, knowing full well he would not be able to play with them in the semi-final. When the result was given to Jimmy in the hospital a flicker of a smile momentarily crossed his face. Just a little example of the wonderful spirit of comradeship that exists amongst our players and it was this spirit that enabled them to rise above themselves and emerge as victors. And when it was

J. OLROG (MIL 2/1/1)

M. D. KROGER

all over the players were visibly affected by the extent of Jimmy's injury—a double fracture of the tibia and fibula, of the right leg.

When Club Secretary, Jack Olrog visited the Hospital on Saturday evening Jimmy was on the point of having his leg set and it is expected he will be detained for about six weeks. Many of our supporters have already expressed a wish to write and to anticipate further enquiries his address is Mount Ward, New End Hospital, Hampstead, N.W.3.

And now a few words of the game itself. John Evans clearly demonstrated his value to us in the second minute by cleverly lobbing the first goal and it was his loyalty to the Club and his fellow players that finally persuaded him to reject a further cap with Wales. We think the Welsh selectors are broad minded enough to realise the position and to include John in future international teams. The Wycombe equaliser was a tragedy in that we could have got the ball upfield had our defence been a little less confident. Our second goal was a typical Laurie Churchill effort running on to a fine cross from David Swain to crash the ball past the Wycombe keeper at terrific speed. Then came David Hyde's free kick that rattled the crossbar with everyone helpless, followed by the tragedy to Jimmy Quail. This happened in the thirty-seventh minute of the first half and few of us expected our team to do more than hang on for a replay. But what a surprise we all had, not only did Bobby Cantwell marshal his defence superbly in retreat they found the stamina to sally upfield in support of the forwards and we were decidedly unlucky not to have increased our lead.

Certainly Churchill's effort that went just wide of the post deserved a better fate and David Swain must have scored had he not run himself into the ground by the amount of work he did in the difficult conditions. And finally few people appreciated John Swannell's tactics in persistently clearing the ball to the centre of the field. His object was

to slow the game up and at the same time keep our defence intact. Hence his long kicks where conditions were most difficult. Wycombe fell into the trap by bringing the ball back through the middle.

This evening we extend a most cordial welcome to the Barking players, officials and supporters in a resumption of our League programme. Barking are always a tough nut to crack, though their only success in major amateur competitions has been the winning of the London Senior Cup on three occasions and the Essex Senior Cup three times. They are showing signs of a revival and were decidedly unlucky to go out to Wealdstone in the Amateur Cup after losing their keeper for part of the game. They have a tie-up with Millwall and include many of their recommendations in their team.

Despite fielding a team that included eight players with first team experience our reserves were knocked out of the Middlesex Intermediate Cup as the result of a one nil defeat at the hands of the runaway leaders of the London Commercial League, Standard Telephone Company, at Southgate last Saturday. Our boys made the mistake of trying to plough through the middle where conditions were most difficult and ignored the comparatively drier wings. After centre forward Emery had given the home side the lead our boys tried desperately to get an equaliser and though they hit the crossbar twice and the upright once they lost the game through their own thoughtlessness.

After a strenuous training session last Tuesday Geoff Riddy was confident he would be fit for the Wycombe game but over-zealousness in training on the Thursday resulted in doubts as to his complete recovery. Geoff had been having regular treatment at Paddington General Hospital and he now awaits their clearance before having a game. It may be necessary to give him a run out in the Reserves before attempting the more exacting first team encounters.

Roy Drake had a serious run out with